Denies Practice of Polygamy is Upheld by Mormon Church.

THAT RELIGION NOT MENACE

Believes That Any Man Taking Polygamous Wife After Issuance of the Manifesto Against Practice Should Be Prosecuted.

WASHINGTON, Feb., 19 .- Senator Reed Smoot's address to the Senate today in defense of his position as senator was the feature of the session. He was supported by Senator Dillingham of Vermont, in an analytica ispeech of the evidence which had been submitof the forestry provision of the agricultural bill with the result that sevbill had not been completed when the batence. recess was taken for the evening sesnot of general importance were passed.

Speaking in his own defense, Senate today on the general subject of Mormanism. He condemned polygamy in the strongest terms, and declared emphatically that he had taken no oath in consistent with that he has taken as senator. Mr. Smoot spoke in part as follows:

Mr. President: In what I shall say to the Senate I do not intend to analyze the voluminous testimony taken before the committee or to make an argument thereon. The greater part of this testimony taken before the Senate for gued by the distinguished Senators who have already spoken upon this assertion. My own testimony, covering more than 125 pages of the Record is before you and I do not feel that I should trespass upon your indulgence case upon the record and speeches made by others, without saying anycertain matters which can be known of the law. only to myself; and I think the Senentitled to a frank statement from upon the subject of polygamy and up-

to the country that I am not and never have been a polygamist. I have never had but one wife and she is my

"There has been a more or less preembers of the Mormon Church when doctrine has ever existed. The revelation concerning polygamy, as origis permissible, and not mandatory. As organizations regarded as sacred and a matter of fact only a small percent- secret. age of the adherents of that faith have ever been polygamists. The vast majority of the adult members from its foundation to the president have been

"The Mormon people, however, regard this doctrine-although permissible in character-as part of their religious faith and when the law was passed denouncing its practice, the enforcement of the law was resisted on the ground that it was unconstitutional, as being an interference with their religious liberty. Appeals were taken States, every phase of the subject was or the other thing is 'Menacing' the tested in the courts, and the law was life of the republic; that we are fol-

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SMOOT IN DEFENSE the people and thereupon the practic tion.

"The status of the man who had entered into plural marriage relation bebeen fixed before that time. There was no power in the church or in the law to change that existing fact. What had been done had been irrevocably done. The only question was to the future. What should be the attitude of the people toward the future revelation of those who had entered into polygamous status before the manifesto? This problem was a serious one. The three assistant United States district attorneys for that period, and other government prosecuting officers. testified before the committee to the general sentiment among the non-Mormen people that the best and quickest way to get rid of the whole question was to let the old-time relations end in Jeath. There was a general acquiescence by the people in this solution and it is working out a complete and final solution,

At the time the manifesto was adopted there were 2.451 polygamous house ted in the case. The senator spent holds in the church, Careful statisseveral nours in further consideration ties have been taken and preserved and will be found in the testimony which show that this member has eral amendments were agreed to which gradually decreased until there was restrict the operations of the bureau in at the time the testimony closed not several respects. One section of the to exceed 500 such households in ex-

"But. Mr. President, it is claimed sion. At the night session several bills, that there have been new cases of polygamous marriages since the mantdifferent system. I have no hesita tion in declaring to the Senate and to the American people that in my opinfor any man who has married a poly care not who the man might be, or what position he might hold in the ty give." church, he should receive the punish ment pronounced by law against his

> The testimony taken before the ceived the sanction or the encourage

"The Mormon Church has stopped plural marriages, and no polygamous in an extended discussion. Indeed, I relation assumed subsequently to 1890 should have been content to admit the is with the permission of, sanction of, approval of the church; that is final Store. and fixed. Every such violation of thing myself, except, that there are the law has the express condemnation

"Reference has been made to a treasonable obligation which it is sought titled to know my personal attitude understand that these ceremonies are on the subject of loyalty to this gov- ting in them and are not therefore diernment. Upon those two matters I vulged. They were instituted in the shall express myself briefly, but with Mermon Church by Joseph Smith some "First, I desire to state as I have given as part of the temple ceremonies herotofore stated, to the Senate and Being of a religious, spiritual charac-

"There does not exist in the endow valent opinion that the doctrine of ment ceremony of the Mormon Church olygamy was obligatory upon the the remotest suggestion of hostility or in bouth and in fact no such obligatory to any other nation. They are of pure inally made and as always interpreted, with the ritual of various fraternal

countrymen, upon the incontrovertible witness borne by the brave survivors and the heroic deed of the Utah light artillery, I hurl back the charge of the defamer that there was ever a word or breath of hostility or disloyalty in the sacred religious ceremonies in which they or any other persons participated as members of the Mormon

"It is not an infrequent occurrence Mr. President, for somebody often a person of prominence, to come out to the highest courts of the United with a declaration that this or that lowing the path which brought Rome Then the church adopted the mani- to decay; that our wealth, our indusfesto against polygamy, which was trial combinations, our free speech, ratified by the general conference of are crowding the nation to destruc-

*21. *23. *27.

a. m p. m p.m a. m 11.55 9.50 10.45 8.40

8.15 5.20 2.45 10.45 7.56 5.05 2.30 10.35 7.54 5.05 2.15 10.25 7.42 2.00 10.15 10.14 7.26 10.16

10.30 8.25 9.45 7.40 8.20 6.10

Notwithstanding all these dire predictions, none of which is more abarchial domination, the American Un-, kept on hand save many a spell of ion is going to stand; it will continue a free and enlightened government. It is founded upon the popular will of a liberty loving people. It discusses its fublic questions and decides them according to rule and out of tolerance humanity and justice. It is built on the undying principles of human rights spells of sickness." Sold by Hart's and human freedom. As such it will drug store. advance. It will grow, It will increase, It will progress. No other nation will prevail against it. It has the favor of God and the gratitude of its own people to perpetuate it along the centuries to come as they have maintained it in the century that has passed.

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been ordered to Atlanta to take command of the Department of the Gulf. Colonel J. C. Woodbury, now stationed at Fort Lawton, Wash., probably will take temporary command of the Desastment of California.

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